

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:395
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2001
SHRINKING OF GLACIERS IN HIMALAYAS
ASHOK KUMAR PATEL;RAMPAL SINGH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that most of the glaciers in Himalayas have been shrinking as a result of which danger of drying up of the rivers like Ganga and Yamuna has arisen;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any plan in pursuance of the study undertaken by the experts to save Ganga and Yamuna from drying up; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. +395 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 20.08.2001 REGARDING SHRINKING OF GLACIERS IN HIMALAYAS

The recession of Glaciers, as a natural process in response to climatic fluctuations due to global warming is a worldwide phenomenon. Studies carried out by the Geological Survey of India have revealed that the Himalayan Glaciers are receding gradually. Based on a study of the climate for the last 1000 years, Geological Survey of India have concluded that in general, glaciers keep on fluctuating over a period of hundreds of years and the process of recession may be reversed in due course of time with favourable climatic conditions.

The lean season flow in perennial rivers is contributed by snow melt and ground water. The summer flows in Himalayan rivers is mainly dependent on snowfall of the preceding winters. The marginal recession of glaciers is not likely to cause drying up of these rivers.

Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India has not received any report of study by experts to save Ganga and Yamuna from drying up. Department of Science & Technology under the Ministry of Science & Technology is carrying out an integrated research, and development programme on Gangotri Glacier. The Projects under this programme deal with various aspects of physical, chemical, geological and environmental processes of the glacier including collection of various kinds of meteorological data.